

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01745 042112Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 H-01
MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HA-05 EB-08
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-----109098 042122Z /63
O 042050Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4084

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, DR
SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF US F/V ANTARES

REF STATE 85062

1. ANTARES ARRESTED WHILE ANCHORED AND FISHING APRIL 1 AT 1730 LOCAL. AFTER RECEIVING REPORT OF SEIZURE, DAO CONTACTED DOMINICAN NAVY TO ASERTAIN FACTS. ON INSTRUCTIONS, DAO PURSUED INQUIRY IN NEXT FEW DAYS, UTILIZING OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS CONCERN RE EFFECT SEIZURE COULD HAVE ON MARITIME BOUNDARY/ FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS.

2. DOM NAVY OFFICIALS TOLD DAO ANTARES WAS CAUGHT FISHING WELL WITHIN DOM SIX-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. MOREOVER, THEY SAID OM NAVY HAS OBSERVED, FROM TIME TO TIME IN PAST, BOTH ANTARES AND A SECOND US F/V, MONSERRAT, SEEMING TO SLIP WITHIN SIX-MILE LIMIT TO FISH AND THEN SLIP OUT AGAIN. THIS TIME, NAVAL AUTHORITIES REPORT THEY WENT AFTER ANTARES AND MADE ARREST.

3. VESSEL NOW DETAINED IN LA ROMANA. CAPTAIN UMBERTO MOLINA WAS JAILED BRIEFLY AND IS NOW FREE. HE AND HIS CREW ARE AT LIBERTY SUBJECT TO CONDITION THEY CANNOT LEAVE COUNTRY. CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST OWNER/OPERATORS, WHO ARE SAID TO BE ON SCENE,
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INVOLVE VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL LIMITS AND LACK OF DOCUMENTATION. EMBASSY SENT CONSULAR OFFICER TO LA ROMANA APRIL 4 TO OFF APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND TO HELP CLARIFY FACTS IN SEIZURE. HIS REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

4. DCM RAISED DETENTION OF ANTARES APRIL 3 IN CONVERSATION WITH FONSEC VICE ADM JIMENEZ. DCM RECALLED US/DR ORAL UNDERSTANDING

THAT RESTRAINT WOULD BE EXERCISED ON BOTH SIDES TO INSURE,
PENDING COMPLETION OF BOUNDARY-FISHERIES AGREEMENT, THERE WOULD
BE NO SEIZURES/HARASSMENT BEYOND CLAIMED TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS.
JIMENEZ, UNAWARE OF ANTARES ARREST AT THE TIME, SAID HE WOULD
LOOK INTO MATTER.

5. DCM ALSO SPOKE WITH PUERTO RICAN UNDERSEC OF STATE MORAN, WHO
CALLED AFTERNOON OF APRIL 3, APPRISING HER OF ANTARES WELFARE/
WHEREABOUTS AND ITS PRESENT STATUS.

6. TODAY, APRIL 4, DOM NAVY C/S ADM RIVERA CAMINERO TOLD DAO
THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED POLICE AUTHORITIES IN LA ROMANA TO TREAT
CAPTAIN MOLINA AND HIS CREW WELL AND WITH ALL DUE REGARD FOR
THEIR RIGHTS. RIVERA CAMINERO ALSO INFORMED DAO THAT ANTARES
CATCH HAD BEEN CONFISCATED AND GIVEN TO LOCAL CHARITY HOSPITAL.

7. FYI FOR DEP ONLY: RIVERA TOLD DAO THIS MORNING THAT DOM NAVY
HAS SEVERAL TIMES OBSERVED ANTARES WITHIN SIX-MIL LIMIT AND
CONFIDED F/V HAS BEEN SUSPECTED OF TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL ALIENS
BETWEEN GODR AND PUERTO RICO.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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